

Cancel claims 1 and 6.

Amend the following claims:

Claim 2, line 1, cancel "1" and insert therefor -- 7 --

5. (Amended) The method of claims 3 or 4 [wherein the medium is a liquid medium further] comprising:

A² removing the antigen to antibody complex from the liquid medium prior to contacting the medium with the beam of light energy[: and

detecting subsequently the presence or absence of the microorganism].

Add the following new claims:

7. A method for the detection of a specific microorganism in a medium, which medium contains antibodies attached to a surface for binding to the specific microorganism to form an antigen to antibody complex, which method comprises:

irradiating the medium with laser light in the range of 242-⁵ 257 nm;

A³ sensing the presence of the complex based on the excitation of the nucleic acids of the microorganism in the presence of proportionally very much larger numbers of antibody; and

detecting the Raman fingerprint region of the microorganism ¹⁶ substantially in the absence of fluorescence.

8. A system for the detection of a specific microorganism in